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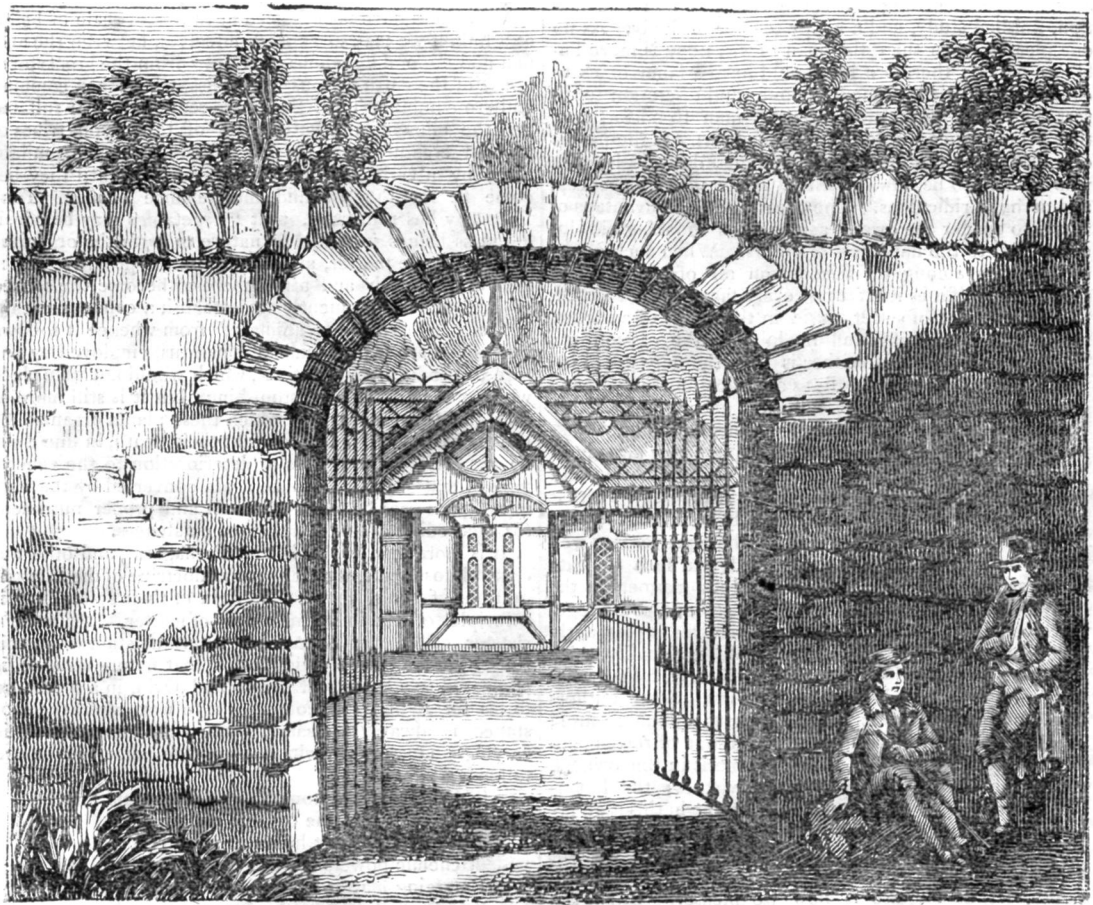
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Vegetables, like living animals, have the power of *respiration*; and in this way inhale the carbonic acid, with which the surrounding air is impregnated, and thus make available that part of decaying substances which float in our atmosphere. This fact of vegetables *breathing* was first announced by Dr. Priestly. He had observed that the plant called a *conferva*, which exists in pools of water, when exposed to the rays of the sun, is covered with minute globules of water, filled with air; and by experiment he found this to be oxygen, which the leaves having inhaled with the carbon, and not wanting, threw back again. All orders of vegetables are produced from four or five natural substances; namely, heat, light, water, air, and carbon. Nature has required only these, in order to form even the most exquisite of her productions, and when we consider that the many thousand tribes of vegetables are not only formed from these few substances, but that they all enjoy the same sun, and are supplied with the same nutriment, we cannot but be struck with the rich economy of nature. That it should be possible, so to modify and intermingle a few simple substances, and thence produce all the variety of form, colour, odour, taste, and quality, which is observable in the different families of vegetables, is a phenomenon too astonishing for

our comprehension. The various orders of vegetables provided in every part of the globe for the countless forms of animal existence are experimentally illustrative of the provident care of the Creator. The sluggish cow pastures in the cavity of the valley; the bounding sheep upon the hill; the goat browses on the shrubs of the rock; the duck feeds on the water-plants of the river; the hen, with attentive eye, picks up every grain which is scattered and lost in the field; and the "little modest bee," turns even the dust of the flower to advantage. That which is rejected by one is a delicacy for another. The hog devours the henbane; the goat the thistle and hemlock. All return at evening to the habitation of man with murmurs, bleatings, and cries of joy, bringing him back the delicious tributes of innumerable plants; not *destroyed*, but *transformed* by a process the most inconceivable, into honey, milk, butter, eggs, and cream. Yes; for man has nature covered the earth with plants, and though their species be infinite in number, there is not one but may be converted to his use, either to minister to his pleasure and support, or to serve for his bed, his roof, his clothing, the cure of his diseases or the fire of his hearth.

E. B.



ENTRANCE GATE TO THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

THE DUBLIN ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

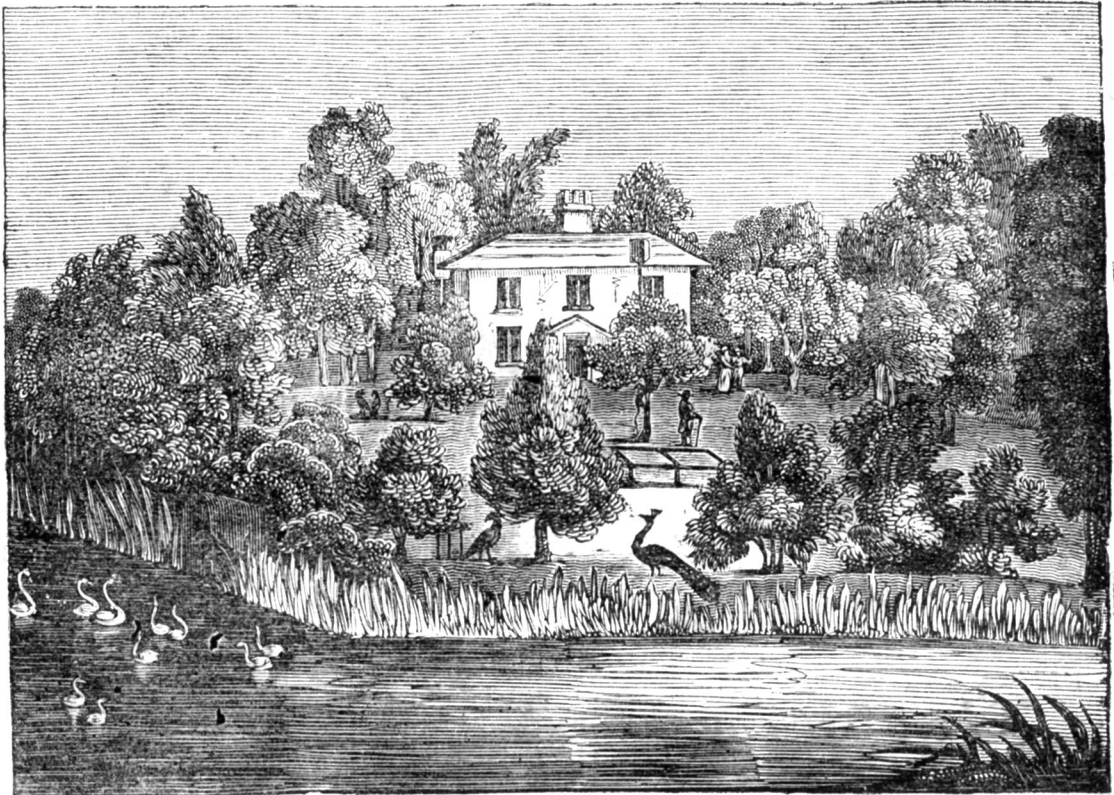
The proposal to form a Zoological Society in Dublin originated with Doctor Stokes, the Professor of Natural History in the University. In consequence of a requisition signed by that gentleman, and twenty-one others, who felt an interest in the subject, a public meeting was convened and held at the Rotunda, on the 10th of May, 1830; the Duke of Leinster in the chair. At this meeting it

was resolved that a Society should be formed for supporting a collection of living animals, according to the plan of the Zoological Society of London, and the *Jardin des Plantes* of Paris. The Duke of Northumberland, then Viceroy of Ireland, in the most liberal manner, offered the Society a site for their Gardens in the Phoenix-park. The commencement of operations, however, was retarded for a time, in consequence of some official difficulties having

been found to exist as to the mode of obtaining the sanction of his Majesty's government to such an appropriation of a part of the royal park. Owing to the active exertions and influence of Mr. Crampton, the surgeon-general, all obstacles to obtaining possession of the ground by the Society were removed, and the Gardens were opened to the public in August, 1831; stocked with a collection of animals, most of which were presents from the Zoological Society of London. Ever since the collection of the Zoological Society of Dublin has increased, and prospered, to an extent exceeding the most sanguine expectations of its original promoters.

The grounds occupied by these gardens stretch along the northern margin of the first lake we meet on entering the park from the city. The gardens rise from the margin of the lake by a gentle acclivity, which exposes them to a S.S.W.

aspect. They have lately been extended by the inclosure of an additional portion of the park on their northern boundary; several commodious and ornamental buildings have been erected to accommodate the specimens which the Society have acquired by donation or purchase, in addition to their original stock. For some of the most valuable specimens which they at present possess, they are indebted to the munificence of his present Majesty. We understand that the collection contains at present upwards of two hundred animals, there being eighty mammalia, one hundred and thirty-six birds, and five reptiles. The lake which bounds the gardens on the S. W. contains eels, *anguilla vulgaris*; perch, *perca fluviatilis*; and roach, *cyprinus rutilus*. The water-hen, *gallinula chloropus*, in the wild state, breeds annually on its shores.



Engraved by Clayton.

SOUTH-WEST VIEW OF THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

These gardens are within the distance of a pleasant walk, and occupy a plot of ground which nature has been bounteous in embellishing, by varying the surface with hill and valley; ornamenting it with wood and water; and placing it in an aspect which commands a grand and picturesque view of distant mountain scenery. In this delightful spot, possessing natural advantages which the wealth of London, or the munificence of the French government could not purchase, animals from every quarter of the globe are brought together, and presented to the study of the zoologist; and so genial is our mild climate to their several constitutions, that there is not a collection in Europe in which the animals generally are in such fine condition, or in which the proportion of deaths is so small; circumstances highly creditable to the care and skill of the superintendent, R. Drewitt.

"FRIENDSHIP'S OFFERING."

Having in our last and preceding numbers introduced the "Forget Me Not," and "Comic Annual," to the notice of our readers; in pursuance of our promised intention, we now present to their kind attention, the beautiful little volume entitled "Friendship's Offering,"

—which, besides its full quota of the usual embellishments, designed and executed in the first rate style of elegance and taste, possesses real intrinsic excellence: inasmuch as several of the tales and stories which are given, are from the pen of the first rate authors of the day, and are really of the first rate class of writing. The stories most to our liking in this volume are, "The Ball Room," "Grace Kennedy," "Donna Francesca," and the two stories which we have selected as a fair specimen of the volume; the first of which, "Ill got—Ill gone," is an Irish sketch, by our highly talented countryman, Mr. John Banim, which we give in our present number. Of the other, "The Lad of Genius," we shall have occasion to speak more at length in our next—but our space is brief—we shall, therefore, at once introduce Mr. Banim in his story of—

ILL GOT, ILL GONE.

"Well—it's my turn, now, sure enough, genteels, to tell my story; and it will be most about how old Square (Squire) M'Cass come by the great fort'n, that he couldn't keep with as strong a hand as he got it—Ill got, ill gone, ye know neighbours." In these words, one of a circle of Irish villagers, assembled round a winter-fire, and beguiling the long holiday evening with their favorite amuse-